

STATE GRAND JURY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,)	Case No: <u>2021-GS-47-27</u>
)	
)	
)	
v.)	INDICTMENT FOR
)	BREACH OF TRUST WITH FRAUDULENT
)	INTENT, MONEY LAUNDERING,
)	COMPUTER CRIME, AND FORGERY
)	
RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
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At a session of the State Grand Jury of South Carolina, convened in Columbia, South Carolina, on November 18, 2021, the State Grand Jurors present upon their oath and charge as follows:

**COUNT ONE
BREACH OF TRUST WITH FRAUDULENT INTENT
VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-230
CDR Code: 3424**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Orangeburg County, on or about January 29, 2021, did wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously convert to his own use, with intention to permanently deprive the owner of possession, goods to which he had been entrusted by the owner for the care, keeping, and possession, to wit:

While relying on his prestige and reputation as a lawyer, and the trust of Thomas L. Moore, a highway patrolman who had been injured in the line of duty and had come to MURDAUGH for help, MURDAUGH did convince Patrolman Moore to sign over to Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth, and Detrick, P.A. (PMPED) an insurance company check for

settlement proceeds in Patrolman Moore's case by telling him that the money could not be disbursed until his litigation was finished. MURDAUGH then caused a "Settlement Proceeds" check for \$125,000 and made out to "Forge" to be disbursed from the PMPED Client Trust Account. Forge Consulting, LLC, is a legitimate company often used by South Carolina lawyers to facilitate structured settlements. However, MURDAUGH then deposited the \$125,000 "Settlement Proceeds" check – which was supposed to be compensation to Patrolman Moore for his injuries in the line of duty -- into a bank account he had created under the name "Richard A Murdaugh Sole Prop DBA Forge". MURDAUGH had created this bank account for the purpose of misappropriating funds belonging to others with the illusion that the money was being paid to the legitimate company Forge Consulting, LLC. Instead of compensating Patrolman Moore, MURDAUGH instead breached Patrolman Moore's trust and converted the money to his own personal use, for expenses including but not limited to overdraft fees, cash, and checks written to associates.

All in violation of section 16-13-230 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes, and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT TWO
MONEY LAUNDERING
VALUE \$100,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. §35-11-740
CDR Code: 3939**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Orangeburg County, between on or about January 29, 2021 and on or about May 31, 2021, did conduct financial transactions with property that he knew was the proceeds of, or was derived directly or indirectly from the proceeds of, unlawful activity, and he conducted these transactions with the intent to promote the carrying on of unlawful activity, and while knowing that the transactions were designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, sources, ownership, or control of the proceeds of unlawful activity, to wit:

MURDAUGH created a bank account under the name "Richard A Murdaugh Sole Prop DBA Forge". He created this account for the purpose of misappropriating funds belonging to others with the illusion that the money was being paid to the legitimate settlement planning company Forge Consulting, LLC. MURDAUGH caused a \$125,000 settlement disbursement check representing proceeds intended for the benefit of highway patrolman Thomas L. Moore to be made out to "Forge". He then deposited the check into the Forge account under his control, and then conducted financial transactions including online banking transfers and cash withdrawals to convert the \$125,000 to his own personal use. These transactions exceeded \$100,000 in a twelve month period.

All in violation of section 35-11-740 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime

related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes, and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT THREE
COMPUTER CRIME
VALUE MORE THAN \$10,000
S.C. Code Ann. §16-16-20
CDR Code: 3110**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Orangeburg County, between on or about January 29, 2021 and on or about May 31, 2021, did wilfully, knowingly, maliciously, and without authorization and for an unauthorized purpose, directly or indirectly access or cause to be accessed a computer, computer system, or computer network for the purpose of: devising or executing a scheme or artifice to defraud; obtaining money, property, or services by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, promises; and committing any crime; to wit:

MURDAUGH created a bank account under the name "Richard A Murdaugh Sole Prop DBA Forge". He created this account for the purpose of misappropriating funds belonging to others with the illusion that the money was being paid to the legitimate settlement planning company Forge Consulting, LLC. MURDAUGH caused a \$125,000 settlement disbursement check representing proceeds intended for the benefit of highway Patrolman Thomas L. Moore to be made out to "Forge". He then deposited the check

into the Forge account under his control, and then conducted online banking transfers to convert settlement proceeds to his own personal use, which defrauded Patrolman Moore and laundered the proceeds. These transactions exceeded \$10,000.

All in violation of section 16-16-20 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and such conduct involving a violation of the South Carolina Anti-Money Laundering Act, or a crime related to a violation of the Anti-Money Laundering Act, and such conduct also involving a crime involving computer crimes, or a conspiracy or solicitation to commit a crime involving computer crimes, and such conduct having not been authorized by law.

Against the peace and dignity of this State and contrary to the law in such case made and provided.

**COUNT FOUR
FORGERY
VALUE \$10,000 OR MORE
S.C. Code Ann. § 16-13-10
CDR Code: 3437**

That RICHARD ALEXANDER MURDAUGH, in Orangeburg County, on or about some time in January of 2020, did wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously, falsely make, forge, or counterfeit any writing or instrument of writing; and did cause or procure to be falsely made, forged, or counterfeited any writing or instrument of writing; and did wilfully act or assist in the false making, forging, or counterfeiting of any writing or instrument of writing; and did utter or publish as true any false, forged, or counterfeited writing or instrument of writing; and did willingly act or assist in any of the above, with an intention to defraud any person; to wit:

